America's Training Network

America's Training Network (**ATN**) is a new effort just beginning development and sponsored by the America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS) of the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It is attempting to create a marketplace where individuals and companies can readily find appropriate, already developed training (technology-based, distance learning, traditional courses, or custom-developed). Such a marketplace will make it easier for training vendors to reach their intended audience and for small training firms to find a larger market. The result of an organized, accessible market should be lower overall costs for training and a greater willingness on the part of both employers and individuals to invest in the training necessary to raise the skill level of the American workforce and help the United States become more competitive in the global economy of the 21st century.

The **ATN** will consist of three primary components:

- a browser-enabled user interface
- a set of interconnected content databases
- an undergirding application layer, structured around an expert system (based on the
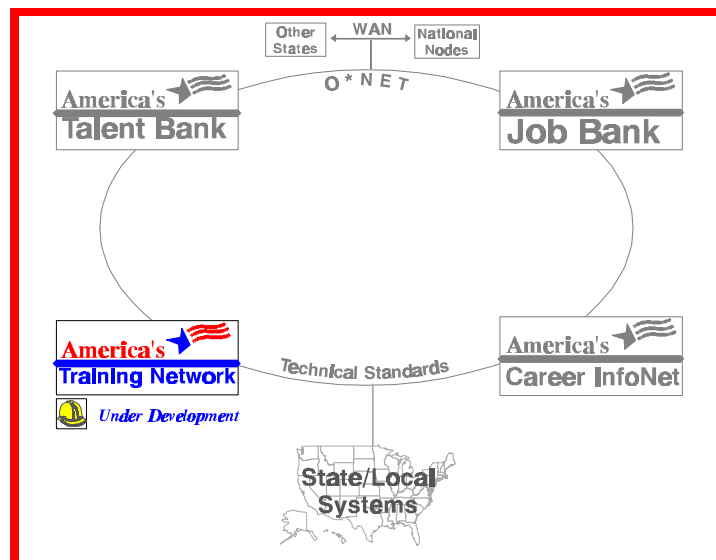
"intelligent Tutor" model developed by the Department of Defense) and a sophisticated search engine, that accesses, manages, and keeps track of the use of the databases.

The **User Interface** will provide a ubiquitous, easy-to-use graphical access, at the server level, to the **ATN**'s applications and databases.

The **Database Layer** will consist of a set of interconnected content databases, including: the *Institutions Database* of all the public and private post-secondary course offerings; the *Training Products Database* of the various non-traditional self-contained training programs; the *Accreditation, Certification, and Licenses Database*; the *Training Modules Database* containing the electronic building blocks used in computer-based courseware development; the *Vendor Database* of training developers and providers; the *Consumer Information Database* of information on outcomes, cost, and performance information.

The **Applications Layer** will provide the **ATN** user with intelligent help in defining training needs, establishing learning goals, and assisting users in navigating training choices.

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